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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/786,204	03/02/2001	John Henry Forster	P277103	6271

909 7590 03/15/2002

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP
1600 TYSONS BOULEVARD
MCLEAN, VA 22102

EXAMINER

SAWHNEY, HARGOBIND S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2875

DATE MAILED: 03/15/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/786,204

Applicant(s)

FORSTER ET AL.

Examiner

Hargobind S Sawhney

Art Unit

2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 18 and 19 objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 18, line 2, "different area" should be revised as --different size --; and

Claim 19, line 2, "same in each nominal area" should be revised as – identical in each nominal area --.

Appropriate correction is required.

This application has been examined considering the limitations suggested above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ashall (International Application No. WO 92/05535) prior art identified in the disclosure.

Regarding claims 13 and 14, Ashall (International Application No. WO 92/05535) disclose an edge-lit illumination system (Figure 1) comprising:

- A light transmitting sheet 10 (Figure 1, page 3, line 22) and a light source positioned in a housing 20 (Figure 1, page 4, line 13);
- The light source positioned in a housing 20, and being positioned adjacent an edge of the light transmitting sheet 10;
- The light transmitting sheet 10 having its opposite surfaces (Figure 1) carrying markings (Figure 1, page 4, lines 15-22); and
- The markings being disposed randomly (Figure 1, page 4, lines 18 and 19) with in each of the nominal surface area.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 15-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashall (International Application No. WO 92/05535).

Regarding claims 15-24, Ashall (International Application No. WO 92/05535) does not teach an edge-lit illumination system comprising light emitting sheet including following features:

- The marking covering from (a) 0.1 to 99%; and (b) 1 to 40% of the sheet area;
- The light emitting sheet having each nominal area being of equal size;
- The light emitting sheet having each nominal area is of different size;
- The area of marking coverage being identical in each nominal area;
- The area of marking coverage being different in each nominal area; and
- Marking ranges from 0.3 to 3 mm in length, and being of an irregular shape.

It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify a light-emitting sheet of Ashall with the above indicated design features, since the applicant has not disclosed that the above-indicated features solve any problem or is for a particular reason. It appears that the claimed invention would perform equally well with a light emitting sheet modified having its surfaces bearing markings and additionally having other features indicated above.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Saigo (US Patent 5,926,033) and Hosseini et al. (US Patent 6,347,873 B1) each discloses a lighting device comprising some of the feature calimed by the applicant.

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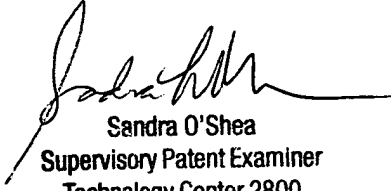
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hargobind S, Sawhney whose telephone number is 703-306-5909. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 - 5:15.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 703-305-4939. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7724 for regular communications and 703-308-8303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-2956.

HSS

3/8/2002



Sandra O'Shea
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800